

Don Quixote In 1916

To regulate profits may be possible for the Carranza government, without driving all merchants out of business. A considerable proportion of merchants would prefer to remain in business with moderate profits allowed, rather than to abandon their business. But what is really meant by "profits" in the latest Carranza proclamation for the state of Chihuahua? This question is complicated by the other clauses relating to the depreciated paper currency of the de facto government.

The de facto government says that its paper currency is worth as much as silver, and that prices must be the same in either silver or paper. But the paper currency is quoted around 50 cents, or ten Mexican centavos, for each peso of face value. Hence, under the Chihuahua proclamation, a merchant may be forced to sell goods worth five pesos in silver, for paper worth only 50 centavos or one-tenth the silver value. "Profit" under such circumstances is a myth; the government would have to allow merchants 900 percent profit merely to break even.

From the late proclamation the following paragraphs are quoted:

"Whereas the merchants, with the full knowledge that the paper money of the new government has a representative value equal to the silver money of Mexican coinage, continue to have two prices for their goods: one in silver, and a second in paper."

"Fourth: It is strictly prohibited for anyone to maintain different prices for silver and paper money, for the reason that the money of the government cannot not be subjected to depreciation in face of its own Mexican coinage."

Penalty of fine and imprisonment is provided for violation.

The proclamation is pathetic, rather than ridiculous. It is pathetic because it is so hopelessly absurd. It is composed of impossible requirements sustained by loose arguments based on false premises.

Unless it can somehow be given a real exchange value in silver, there is just one way to make the Carranza fiat currency equal in purchasing power to

silver, and that way is, armed force, with threats of confiscation and drastic punishment. To force merchants to receive the Carranza currency, as it is now constituted, on a parity with silver is simply to confiscate the goods and business, to the extent of the margin by which the paper fails to measure up to the silver value.

This can be done by armed force and threats; the de facto government might as well seize the stocks of goods outright, redistribute them at will, and be done with it. Such an act would be no more high handed or unjustifiable than the present plan.

The Carranza government has never given out any reliable information at all about its currency. It is presumed that it has no metallic base, reserve, or actual metal exchange privilege, whatever. It is presumed that it is pure fiat currency, simply the "I expect to pay something sometime when I get ready" if I am then able to pay" declaration of the owner of the floating press. Nobody knows how much of the stuff is floating around. Its "purchasing power" is based on pure faith, pure gambling on the indefinite prospect of the currency ever being given a real silver exchange value which it now lacks.

If the Carranza currency really has a metallic base, and really possesses a "representative value" possible to determine by scientific principles, nobody in Mexico or the United States has ever been informed of it. The various bank bills have a fairly stable value, though even the national bank bills would be quoted much higher today if some positive information could be had about the state of their metallic reserves. But the Carranza fiat paper, so far as anybody knows, has nothing behind it but an unsupported promise to pay something sometime if convenient.

The de facto government is up against a whole series of economic laws which all nations and peoples at various times have tried to defy and break, with uniformly tragic results. To try by mere proclamation to put and keep the Carranza paper on a parity with silver under existing circumstances is nothing but a form of forcible confiscation and will everywhere be so regarded. It will have no effect except to postpone the restoration of the country and cause renewed dissatisfaction.

New Light At Washington

The New York World is very friendly to the Wilson administration; indeed it comes as near being an "administration organ" as any paper does. It has a valuable exclusive service from Washington, which bears the marks of authority in many of its comments and conclusions. In a recent issue the Washington bureau discussed the appointment of H. P. Fletcher to be ambassador to Mexico, and the prospects of a fight being made in the senate against his confirmation. In the dispatch it was stated:

"President Wilson's choice of Mr. Fletcher as a man of tact and diplomatic knowledge was largely the result of the experience which he has had with some of the men who went to Mexico to represent this government during the revolutionary period."

"The administration is anxious to wipe out the impression made upon the Mexican people by William Bayard Hale, John Lind, George C. Carver and some of the special agents upon whom the president has relied for information."

"The president has confided to friends that some of the Mexican trouble might be traced to misinformation brought to Washington by men who were sent to the turbulent country to get a first hand view of conditions and prospects."

From this it appears that the president is emerging from his dream-state in relation to Mexico. Every American, Mexican, and European having any first hand knowledge of conditions in Mexico has long known that the Washington administration was being misled by false informants—some moving by ignorance or carelessness, some by design.

The only news in the above dispatch is that the administration has evinced some willingness to hear the truth, and to act upon it with timely, if too long delayed, wisdom.

Considerable opposition to Fletcher is developing among the active Democratic politicians in both houses of congress, who are anxious to see the ambassadorship go to "some deserving Democrat" by way of political reward.

Pacifist "Argument"

A characteristic argument of the extreme pacifists is that voiced by congressman Sherwood of Ohio the other day, when he said:

"In 1895, in order to make a generous way to spend more money, our extensive coast defense system was started. Have any of these big guns ever been called upon to fire at an enemy? No; not one, in all the 30 years; and furthermore, there may never be an enemy in sight for 30 years more."

It is probable that the congressman carries life insurance, yet his estate has never yet, in all these years, collected the money called for by the face of his policies. It is probable that he carries fire insurance, yet in all these years his house has never burned down. Would he argue that, on that account, the sums he has spent for life insurance and fire insurance have been unwisely spent?

Such "arguments" as that of the congressman are almost impossible to reply to, because they indicate a mind incapable to real argument, and directed by feelings and prejudices rather than by reason and facts.

All the elaborate establishment for harbor defense may have to be kept up for years in order that, some day, when the crisis comes, half a dozen big guns may fire for 30 minutes. A good deal may depend on whether they are ready, in charge of an adequate force of trained men, when the crisis comes.

In this world, we have to take things as they are, and consider the facts, before we can plan intelligently for improvement. It is true, the United States may not be disposed to pick quarrels or to give other nations good cause for attacking us. But, as Mr. Gardner expressed it, what may happen to us when we are attacked by a nation with bigger guns and a smaller conscience?

We do not blame Gen. Huerta so much; but what ought to be done with New York speculators who pledged him financial aid in his attempt to arrange for the murder of a few thousand more wretched Mexicans?—Shreveport (La.) Times.

Short Snatches From Everywhere.

Norway, according to the Ford peace expedition, is cold more ways than climatically.—Detroit Free Press.

Germany has demonstrated that Russia is likable, but Russia is not disposed to remain liked.—Houston Post.

An idle rumor makes the busy bee look like a drone when it comes to getting around.—Salt Lake Desert News.

When horseflesh becomes the vogue, there will be a lot of new vegetarians in this country.—Grand Rapids News.

The war has sent up the price of bromides, but conversationally, they are as plentiful as ever.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Furthermore, the bride should understand that the honeymoon is over when the groom comes home pickled.—Dallas News.

Somewhere, it is easy to see a resemblance between the last rose of summer and a woman who has the grip.—Atholton (Kas.) Globe.

One of the morals of the shortage of kazoos is the desirability of owning a large flock of oil wells.—Amarillo (Texas) Panhandle.

To be a satisfactory fiancé a man should be all heart, but to be a satisfactory husband he should be all pocketbook.—Los Angeles Tribune.

The 68 year old youngest son of the centenarian who died at Torreon might be described as the baby of the family.—Santa Fe New Mexican.

Where a reputation is concerned, even when you label "Handle with care" there is no guarantee against breakage.—Philadelphia Record.

Austria by this time is beginning to believe that perhaps the United States has something else in stock besides note paper.—Oklahoma City Oklahomaan.

It is to be regretted that the bloodiest war of history is necessary to teach Americans the glories of their own country.—Beaumont (Texas) Journal.

As faith is said to move mountains, we are beginning to fear that Gen. Goethals will have to call on the preachers before long.—Washington Post.

Being married or Irish is hardly anything that will save a Britisher from fighting, and they're the very ones who wouldn't mind it.—Oklahoma City Times.

If the automobile has put the old-fashioned carriage on the scrap pile, that is no reason for putting the automobile on the meat market.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Hotels Dispense Hospitality At Meter Rates
Hotels Vary Greatly In Size and In Severity

By GEORGE FITCH.

A HOTEL is a place where hospitality is dispensed at meter rates. There are in the United States over 100,000 hotels, some of which are good.

Hotels vary in size and severity. In New York and Chicago, one may find hotels containing 1500 rooms apiece, in some of which rooms an awkward guest could not turn around without knocking over \$1.00 worth of bric-a-brac. In Arkansas, on the other hand, there are hotels in which a guest has to pay extra if he doesn't want to sleep with the family and which use the Mississippi river for a bath tub.

An ordinary hotel consists of a large, with a register on it, a collection of rooms furnished luxuriously with windows, doors and beds with sheets on them, a dining room, gorgeously decorated with straw colored pompanders and a writing room with a last year's time table in it. The United States is full of such hotels. They only vary in the badness of the meals served. Some of these hotels change cooks every day while others train the same cook year after year, allowing her to eat somewhere else.

There are also in this country a

fairly large number of old-fashioned hotels where the family does the cooking and eats it too, right out in public in the dining room. These hotels have old-fashioned heating stoves, and when the guest rises in winter he



He has to whittle the water out of the pitcher before he can wash his face.

Besides these two varieties, there are also modern hotels. These consist of a lobby upholstered in marbled paper, gold and flunkies and decorated at the rear with a member of some royal family behind a register. The lobby is surrounded by about 10 layers of rooms, each of which rents for the price of a pair of shoes per night, while scattered about on the ground floor are restaurants, in which one may secure a large, well cooked meal with plenty of side dishes for the price of an acre of land in Texas. In fact, it is perfectly easy for a small man with a fair appetite to eat up a whole Texas farm in a week in a New York hotel, especially if he washes it down liberally.

The legislatures of some states are regulating the length of the sheets used by the hotels. This gives rise to the hope that the clerk may be regulated a little in due time, though no one has had the nerve to tackle the job as yet. Protected by The Adams Newspaper Service.

ABE MARTIN



Tell Binkley asked Mrs. Tilford Moots what kind of a auto her uncle bought, and she said, "It's a Fob, made in Detroit." Marriage reforms some fellows and others try it two or three times.

the parlor rug to hide away from the Janitor, I'll tell you what about Uncle Wiggly and the second little pig. Copyright, 1915, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

TRASH FIRE SUNDAY NIGHT. A trash pile burning near the intersection of California and Noble streets caused an alarm Sunday. There was no damage.

Sectarianism Forever Doomed In Religion:
Nationalism To Replace Narrow Patriotism

"MODERN invention has made of the world a neighborhood and it now remains for mankind to make of that neighborhood a brotherhood," said Dr. Philip Cook. "On of the things that war is settling is the relationship which nations stand to nations and means that a demand is to be made that the respective countries take their place in the family of nations of the world. It means furthermore that sectarianism is doomed in religion; and it means that patriotism, in its narrow sense, is doomed in nationalism. There can no longer be in the hearts of thoughtful and merciful people enmity to the rest of the world. I refuse to believe that this great struggle may end in no more than a code of ethics; I believe that it will crystallize into so intense a spiritual condition that it will be registered lastingly in books, sculpture, painting, poetry, music and the myriad of other agencies in which the spirit of the soul of man has an opportunity for expression. The world is on the eve of a new and a marvelous era and that the chaos, devastation and beastiality that is now rampant in Europe, the cradle of modern civilization, is the precursor of that more glorious era, the dawn of the new era, the dawn of the new era, the dawn of the new era."

"To much care cannot be exercised by El Pasoans in guarding against diseases emanating from the lower part of the city and Juarez," said Capt. W. D. Groat. "The epidemic of smallpox and typhus fever in Mexico, is certain to have an effect on El Paso, and citizens of this city should guard against it. Typhus fever in particular, which is practically incurable in this climate, is spreading in northern Mexico, according to reports, and the Mexicans are sure to attempt to pour over to the American side of the river in an effort to obtain medical treatment."

"If we had another gymnasium we could use it exclusively for basketball, judging from the enthusiasm manifested in this indoor game," said A. L. Holm, physical director of the T. M. C. A. "There are now two senior leagues in full blast at the gymnasium, and one junior league. On the rosters of the two senior organizations are the names of some of the best players of the southwest and they have developed in some of the best basketball ever witnessed on a local floor. At the end of the senior league season it is our intention to have a series of games between the two winning teams for the city championship."

"The new decree of the state of Chihuahua offers no insuperable barrier to progress," said vice consul E. Soriano. "I am not authorized to speak officially on the matter, but the diversion of trade into the interior of Mexico will build up Mexico's industries and give labor to her people. The movement of the Constitutional government will circulate among Mexican people, and help make the nation a progressive one. The slogan 'America for Americans' is repeated in the idea of Gen. Carranza's, as expressed in a similar phraseology, 'Mexico for Mexicans.'"

"To much praise cannot be said of the efficiency of the army guards and I believe that they are a great help to the police department," said Capt. Joseph E. Stowe. "The manner in which they handle the riot on Broadway and Second streets on Friday night was perfect, and Lieut. M. C. Shallenberger, the provost marshal, is to be commended for his efficient leadership that eight arrests of ringleaders were made, and the crowd of artillerymen were dispersed in a very short time after the riot started."

"The coal mining interests of southern Colorado are very hopeful of a heavy increase in business in Mexico as a result of the ascendancy of Carranza in northern Mexico," said A. J. Hall. "During my recent visit in Trinidad I found the mining people very optimistic, and their optimism was based largely upon inquiries and actual orders from Mexico. I found that the people of Colorado pretty generally know about El Paso and her prosperity, although many were surprised when I told them that the population of 70,000 people; the impression prevailed among many that our population ranged between 25,000 and 30,000. Business is improving in Colorado and the general feeling is good."

"The rich man spoke and all held their peace, and what he said they expected from the clouds." (Ecclesiastes XII, 25.)

This is the synchronicity of debased human nature.

The rich man seemeth to himself wise, but the poor man that is prudent shall search him out. Prov. XXVIII, 11.

This is our assurance that Henry can influence only those men who like scenery, and that Henry can influence only those men who like scenery.

Of course there is one who will thrust a stake into the ground and say to Henry:

"The way is good; and then stand on the other side to see what shall befall thee." (Ecclesiastes XXXVII, 11.)

However, we all have that gentleman's number, and so I reason, "Ish-ghe-bible."

AGED MAN DISAPPEARS ON DEC. 24; CANNOT BE FOUND

Friends of R. E. Whitten are alarmed over his disappearance and the police have been asked to assist in locating him. Mr. Whitten, who is 75 years old, disappeared from his home, 3115 Monroe street, on December 24. Since then he has not been seen or heard from. He came here from Baird, Tex., with his wife and for a number of years connected with the Texas & Pacific railroad. He had been here about a year.

The ordinary cost of a Want Ad in the El Paso Herald is 25 cents. It reaches an average of about 100,000 readers each issue.

PHOTOPLAY TREASURER COMES.

A. H. Groves, treasurer for the Masterpiece Photoplay corporation which is being organized here, has arrived from San Francisco to assist in the formation of the new photoplay company here. No site has yet been selected for the studio of the proposed company.

MRS. HAMMETT GIVES \$100 TO BUDGET FUND; OVERLAND \$100

To Mrs. F. F. Hammett, widow of former mayor Hammett, has been given the honor of making the first subscription to the budget fund to come from a woman of El Paso. Mrs. Hammett withdrew \$100 from the 1914 budget fund Monday morning.

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